



Annual Meeting

September 13, 2012



Welcome to this showcase of
Northeast Ohio's finest agricultural
products prepared by some of the
region's best chefs.

-The Board and
Staff of
Lake SWCD

2012 Board of Supervisors

Dick Baker	Chair
Skip Dugan	Vice Chair
Larry Klco	Treasurer
Jeff Hyrne	Fiscal Agent
Brad Shawhan	Secretary

2012 Staff

Dan Donaldson	District Administrator
Chad Edgar	Resource Protection Specialist
Beth Landers	Coastal NPS Pollution Education Specialist
Maurine Orndorff	Arcola Creek Watershed Coordinator

In past sixty-six years Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District has evolved to serve the changing needs of the county. Every so often, its interesting and appropriate to look back at the evolution of the Soil and Water conservation District against a back drop of emerging environmental responsibility in the United States.



ew folks know that Soil and Water Conservation districts are the phoenix rising from the ashes of the Dust Bowl years. Most of us don't remember the mid-1930s when colossal dust storms blasted fertile topsoil from the Great Plains, dropping it thousands of miles away on East Coast cities. The agricultural disaster was blamed on inappropriate farming techniques combined with the effects of a drought. The manmade problem had a manmade solution. In 1937 President Roosevelt encouraged the formation of local Soil Conservation Districts. Ohio enabled the agencies in 1941. The ultimate mission: To help prevent soil erosion and assist in flood control.



n July 1946, Lake County voters overwhelmingly passed (89 percent) a referendum to establish the Lake County Soil Conservation Service. Three months later, October 17, 1946, the first Board of Supervisors was seated. On January 20, 1947, the district was incorporated.

Neighboring Geauga County had established its district in 1944. Cuyahoga and Ashtabula counties followed suit in 1949. By 1964 all 88 Ohio counties had organized soil conservation districts.

In the beginning soil conservation districts focused on agriculture land use. Items on the first five-year plan -- written in 1946 -- were 1) develop plans for the best use of cropland, pasture land, woodland, wildlife, and other natural resources and 2) develop a water control program to control erosion. These goals addressed the soil concerns facing a county in which 50 percent of its 147,622 acres were farmland.



till meeting at the post office in Madison, the supervisors expanded the District's reach in the 1950s. Their work was largely funded by county and state allocations. They also worked with The Ohio State University Extension Service to offer farm tours and a forestry program. In 1958, 306 people took aerial conservation tours. By the time District was 10 years old, it had assisted 289 farms covering 25,765 acres.



n the 1960s environmental issues blasted to the forefront of American consciousness with Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring" and local awareness by the "death" of Lake Erie. Given growing environmental interest, it seems appropriate that the District added a "W" and became the Soil *and Water* Conservation District.

Know that Lake County was changing from rural to suburban. Population nearly doubled from 1950 (about 76,000) to 1960 (about 149,000), making it one of the fastest growing areas in the nation. To address these challenges of change, District activities began to include farmland preservation and urban erosion control.

In 1963, the District also started working with Madison's Arcola Creek, one of the last natural estuaries in Ohio. Lake and Ashtabula County commissioners and ODNR authorized the USDA to study the watershed.

As the 1960s continued Lake SWCD joined forces with Geauga and Cuyahoga districts in 1966, creating a tri-county office in Chesterland, sharing equipment and staff.



y the 1970's, environmental awareness was mainstream. The first Earth Day was held in April of 1970 and the United States Environmental Protection Agency founded in December 1970. Keeping with increased awareness of environmental issues, Soil and Water Districts addressed both agricultural and urban conservation.

Lake SWCD began educating the public more aggressively. The district sponsored students at Forestry Camp and held a Pond Clinic at Holden Arboretum in Kirtland. Geauga left the tri-county office, so a new Cuyahoga and Lake county office opened in Willoughby Hills. With population bumping the 200,000 mark, the

suburbs were growing and drainage became a major issue. The District was there to advise landowners. In 1979, the Lake County Soil Survey was completed.



In the 1980s, Lake SWCD reinvented itself after a lack of funds nearly closed the doors. The Cuyahoga and Lake offices split and a new county office opened in a Wickliffe storefront with furniture cast-off from the Atomic Energy Commission. A few years later the office moved closer to the county seat in Painesville where, today, the staff find it easier to work with county agencies.

A series of budget changes kept the number of staff in a state of flux. At times there was only one District Conservationist keeping the doors open, but by the end of the decade, there were three full time employees and one part time employee. In 1987, the district acquired its first computer. Until the 1980s, the board of supervisors were from the county's dominant agricultural industries. Now new supervisors represented urban areas as well.

New funding sources-- EPA grants and municipal appropriations -- combined with increased county allocations, made it possible to add staff and expand urban conservation programs in the 1990s.

During the decade education programming was funded by a \$100,000 grant from the Mastin Foundation. Land labs were established at schools throughout the county. Lake SWCD also began to work more with cities, villages and townships, signing memorandums of understanding

to provide services.

With urbanization, non-point source pollution and conservation easements became issues. Non-point source pollution refers to substances carried by rainfall and snowmelt to our groundwater, rivers, or lakes. That includes soil particles moved in the waterway by erosion. The District participated in several EPA studies on the topic. Conservation easements became a tool to preserve farmland and open space.

In 1992, the District was recognized as one of the top two districts in Ohio, despite the fact (or because) it didn't do any of the 'typical' soil and water district activities. Today, the Lake SWCD staff of seven with assistance of USDA and RC&D are still involved in many of the programs started in the 80's and 90's.



As you can see we've come a long way from the Dust Bowl years, changing our focus to help residents balance their current land use with soil and water conservation.

To learn more about today's mission continue reading our program.

2012-2016

Protect, Restore & Manage

Public Land & Water Resources

The district serves as administrator for Lake County's and local municipality's Erosion and Sediment Control Regulations. The district also provides technical support to County agencies and local governments for storm water management, zoning, planning and Ohio EPA Phase 2 compliance (Clean Water Act). We provide similar technical support to state and federal agencies as well as local non-governmental organizations.

Local government officials and landowners need current, accurate and reliable information about natural resources to make decisions critical to conservation.

Lead Lake County's Natural Resource Education

Education is an important element in creating a culture that respects and conserves all natural resources. Lake SWCD will continue to provide current natural resource education and awareness programs in Lake County through targeted district programming.

Strategic Plan

Guide Conservation and Preservation of Private Land

The district guides private land conservation and preservation by utilizing state and federal programs in conjunction with strategic cooperation among local non-governmental organizations, land conservancies, watershed groups, residents, and neighborhood organizations.

The district continues to adapt its technical capabilities to assist landowners with changing realities on the landscape. Our goal is to maintain a high standard of natural resource protection throughout the county, while addressing contemporary issues such as, development, natural gas and wind energy production, and biomass production, along with our traditional agricultural uses.

Increase District Public Awareness and Capacity

Providing non-duplicative and efficient services is a Lake SWCD priority. We provide these services through the development of professional staff and utilizing current technology.

Meet the Growers!

Tonight's fare was sources as close to home as possible. These are the people who made that happen:

Secor's Nursery and Farm Market straddles Route 20 in Perry, and is operated by the third and fourth generations of the Secor family. They grow a wide variety of fruits for you-pick customers, and also offer fruits, vegetables, trees, shrubs, and hanging planters at the farm market, which is located on the south side of 20 just before Townline Road.

Wayman Farms

Wests Orchards is located on 70 acres along Route 20 in Perry. They offer you-pick strawberries and sour cherries in season, and have a wide variety of Ohio-grown produce available in their farm market, as well as their own tree fruits, sweet corn, and tomatoes. The orchard has been in the West family for 5 generations.

Rainbow Farms is a first-generation farm in North Perry. Offering a farm market and pick-your-own options from June into September, they are also a fixture at several farmer's markets in the area. Greenhouses and hydroponics allow them to extend the growing season, providing fresh local vegetables even in snowy winters.

Hart Farms

New Creation Farm is located in Geauga County. They raise Scottish Highland cattle and Berkshire and Berkshire/Tamworth crossed pigs, and provided the meat for tonight's dinner. The cattle are pastured year-round, and the pigs are pastured except in the coldest months. The animals are raised free of antibiotics.

Sage's Apples, in Chardon, Ohio, is a family farm raising a variety of fruits and vegetables. They are perhaps best known for their 50+ varieties of apples, and have been a Geauga County fixture for almost 100 years.

Meet the Chefs!

Why home-grown matters.

'Locally-grown' has become a trendy term in the last few years. It seems like everyone has been hopping on the local bandwagon, from fast food to fine dining to the college cafeteria line. Northeast Ohio is home to a vibrant food-loving community, and it is the perfect meeting place of culture and climate. Eating locally in Lake County doesn't mean limiting your diet to a few vegetables at a time.

Lake SWCD is involved with our local agricultural community because we know their importance to the county's economy. Each one of the farms who grew tonight's fare has also raised a family alongside the crops. Most farms also hire employees from outside the family, and all of them are doing business with other farms, supply companies, and hardware stores in our community.

In addition to these direct economic interactions, the produce farms and orchards draw people to Lake County for the day or for the weekend. After a hot day of picking blueberries, these folks stop for lunch or ice cream on the way back home, or run through the grocery store for vanilla ice cream to go with the peach cobbler they can't wait to make.

Our farmland, nurseries, and wineries provide other benefits as well. These farmers want to pass on the farm they spent their lives working on to their children and grandchildren. This means they are excellent

stewards of the land. You don't plant an orchard or a vineyard for a quick profit; you're in it for the long haul. This means farmers protect their fields from erosion, disease, and nutrient loss. They want the rain to fall gently on the soil and soak in for the plant roots to use.

Agriculture also protects the open space in a community. Homes have more value if the land around them is open green space, rather than seeing retail, residential or industrial buildings out the windows. Indeed, the identity of the community is tied to what people see as they enter and drive through a village or township. Lake County is a unique place where you can drive down the road in October and smell the grape crop, or pass by an entire field of blooming roses on your way to the library in mid-summer.

The first settlers in North Madison cleared the dense forest for the wood it provided. Ever since then, Lake County and Northeast Ohio have been sending food, wine and spirits, nursery crops, and cut flowers all over the country.

Conservation Leaders in Lake County

Ralph Taylor	1946-56	Ruth Ann Robson	1979-84
Melvin Wyant	1946-53	Peter Turkenburg	1980-85
Charles Garrett	1946-49	Peter Bristol	1981-83
Kenneth Peterson	1946-51	Gary Meivogel	1984-88
Earl Webster	1946-51	Matthew Duke Biscotti	1985-87
Sterling Averill	1950-53	James Burr	1985-86
Lovell Green	1952-59	Vic Swanson	1986-88
Edward Bucholtz	1952-54	Gregory Peck	1986-5/90
David Dugan	1953-56	Charles Grantham	1987-9/97
John Ritola	1953-56	Rob Preseren	1988-89
Edward Struna	1954-56	Ronald Mauk	1989-97, 04-06
Paul Secor	1955-58	Dorothy Schmuck Farris	1989-94
Thorne Brewster	1955-58	Tom Rapini	1990-92, 94-99
Boyd Mahew	1955-58	James Mahokey	1990-93
Ted Caroselo	1957-59	Shirley Sinn	1993-95
Perry Quayle	1958-65	Carolyn Stroombeek	1994-96
Lester Square	1958-61	Carol Fleck	1995-05
Charles Wood	1958-65	David Bello	1996-97
Charles Kohankie	1961-68	Richard Baker	1997-06, 08-
John Madsen	1961-66	Robert Zeitz	1998- 04
Dick Woodworth	1962-68	Paul Belanger	1998-04
Glenn Haskins	1965-70	Barbara Leskovec	2000-02
Richard West	1965-68	Dwayne Bailey	2003-06, 07
Arthur Hart	1966-68	Stephanie Beres	2004-07
Charles Beardslee	1967-73	Paris Wolfe Ferrante	2005-07
Paul Brockway	1967-70	Billie Kamis	2006-12
Merton Brewster	1969-71	Denise Brewster	2006-09
Gary Dugan	1970-73	Christina LeGros	2007-2010
Joe Schupp	1970-73	Bruce Landeg	2007-2012
Brian Gilson	1970-81	Charles "Skip" Dugan	2009-
Don Stallard	1971-74	Carla Lee	2010
Al Brotzman	1973-79	Jeff Hyrne	2010-
Tim Brotzman	1974-79	Larry Kleo	2012-
Earl Hensel	1974-88	Brad Shawhan	2012-
Frank Zupscan	1976-78, 82-84		



Lake County Soil & Water
Conservation District

Mission

*Lake SWCD provides leadership
and technical expertise to guide
stewardship and conservation of our
unique natural resources.*

Vision

We are the premier conservation

125 E. Erie St., Painesville OH 44077

440-350-2730

Fax 440-350-2601

1-800-899-LAKE, ext. 2730

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

All Lake SWCD and USDA services are available
without regard to race, age, gender, national origin,
political beliefs, color, religion, disability, sexual
